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## **168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing scores "excellent" on consolidated unit inspection**

**Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska**—The Alaska Air National Guard's 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing received an "excellent" rating while conducting a Readiness-Focused Consolidated Unit Inspection Sept. 19-22 on Eielson Air Force Base under the redesigned Air Force Inspection System.

Eielson was the first installation in Pacific Air Forces to be inspected under the new guidelines including wing Inspector Generals and Management Internal Control Toolsets, which allow Airmen to review their checklists and identify areas that are in need of improvement or are in compliance.

The 168th implemented the new AFIS and the Wing Plans section planned, executed and assessed a challenging Phase II Readiness Exercise to demonstrate their Global Power Projection wartime mission, according to the final PACAF IG report. The PACAF/IG Team observed the 168 ARW Inspection Team and Airmen throughout the inspection and deemed overall readiness "excellent".

"With shrinking budgets and the tyranny of distance within the Pacific area of responsibility, what we need to do is try to bundle our trips," said Col. David G. Van der Veer, PACAF inspector general. "So if we travel to Alaska to see Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, I have to leverage that opportunity to try and go see something at Eielson that may be completely different. We will try to wrap a couple different sites into one trip and then document and archive our findings."

"I couldn't be more proud of everyone in the wing and the outstanding effort that they showed during our inspection," said Col. Mark Hedlund, 168<sup>th</sup> ARW commander. "Everyone earned this excellent rating and they should be proud of what they have accomplished."

"The 168 ARW successfully completed a Phase II Readiness Exercise where they executed their wartime KC-135R Strato-tanker mission in a conventional/chemical weapons environment," Van der Veer said in an email to Gen. Herbert Carlisle, Pacific Air Force commander. "The 168<sup>th</sup> Guardsmen demonstrated a sense of urgency working through

numerous attacks to successfully generate and fly 4 of 5 tasked missions. The wing displayed excellent understanding and skills during Ability to Survive and Operate scenarios such as; self-aid buddy care, post-attack reconnaissance sweeps, chemical protection/decontamination and unexploded ordnance identification/marketing."

The 168<sup>th</sup> ARW is only the second wing to implement the new AFIS and the inspection team was excited to see the Guardsmen's positive attitude and work ethic.

"The 168 ARW is doing a great job transitioning to AFIS across the wing and is very capable developing scenarios for readiness training," Van der Veer said. "My team was impressed with their level of detail and commitment."

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